REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 5, 8, and 12 have been amended. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled without prejudice. New claims 18 and 19 have been added. Therefore, claims 1-4, 8-12, and 18-19 are currently pending. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to the use of the term "at least one of" in claims 1 and 12. Applicants respectfully submit that the phrase "at least one of" is a well-known established legal term. Further, the Examiner appears to have objected to use of the term "uninvited guest" in claim 1. Applicants respectfully submit that one of the skilled in the art would understand the claim term upon a reading of the claim.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,699,125 B2 by Kirmse.

Claims 1-4, 8-11

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1 is not anticipated by Kirmse.

Claim 1 recites:

> A computer-readable medium including machine-readable instructions which, when executed by a computer system, cause the computer system to perform a method comprising:
>> broadcasting a gaming invitation from a host;
>> enabling the host to play a first game with an invitee in response to the invitee accepting the gaming invitation; and
>> enabling the host to accept or reject a request to join the first game from an uninvited guest.

(Claim 1, as amended) (Emphasis Added).

In contrast, Kirmse does not teach or suggest enabling the host to accept or reject a request to join the first game <u>from an uninvited guest</u>, as claimed. Kirmse discloses a game server that includes logic for coupling a game client to a messenger client to allow the game client to send the messenger client data used to initiate joining a game. (Kirmse, Abstract). The game server further includes logic to initiate a join of a game at an invitee client. (Kirmse, Figure 4, S9-S11; claim 1). Kirmse does not disclose and therefore, does not teach or suggest an uninvited guest requesting to join the game and enabling the host to accept or reject such a request.

Thus, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Kirmse discloses that only an invited guest may request a host to join the first game. (See, e.g., Office Action dated 03/22/06, p. 8).

As such, Kirmse does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1 and therefore, does not anticipate claim 1 and associated dependent claims 2-4 and 8-11.

<u>Claim 5</u>

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 5 is not anticipated by Kirmse. Claim 5 recites:

> A system comprising:
> a processor to execute a game;
> a display to provide video feedback associated with the game; and
> a memory region including instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the system to:
> > broadcast a gaming invitation from a host,
> > enable the host to play a first game with an invitee in response to the invitee accepting the gaming invitation, and
> > <u>enable the host to accept or reject a request to join the first game from an uninvited guest</u>.

(Claim 5) (Emphasis Added).

As discussed above, Kirmse does not teach or suggest that the host can accept or reject a request to join the game from an <u>uninvited guest</u>.

Kirmse does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 5 and therefore, does not anticipate claim 5.

Claim 12

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 12 is not anticipated by Kirmse. Claim 12 recites:

> A system comprising:
> a processor to execute a game; and
> a memory region including instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the system to:
>> broadcast a gaming invitation from a host;
>> enable a user to at least one of accept or reject a broadcast gaming invitation from a host computer according to a predefined condition, wherein the predefined condition is one of a time of day, type of game, identity of the host computer, configuration of the host computer, location of the system, or location of the host computer.
>> enable the host to play a first game with an invitee in response to the invitee accepting the gaming invitation;
>> <u>enable the host to at least one of accept or reject a request to join the first game from an uninvited guest</u>.

(Claim 12, as amended) (Emphasis Added).

As discussed above, Kirmse does not teach or suggest that the host can accept or reject a request to join the game from an <u>uninvited guest.</u>

Kirmse does not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 12 and therefore, does not anticipate claim 12.

New claims 18 and 19

Applicants respectfully submit that newly added claims 18 and 19, which depend respectively from claims 5 and 12, are allowable at least for the reasons that claims 5 and 12 are allowable.

SUMMARY

Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 18-19 are currently pending. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Tom Ferrill at (408) 720-8300.

Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR
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Dated: June 23, 2006

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